



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

KS03:114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, December 16, 2003

Contact: Doug Stone
Terri Carbaugh
916/653-6575

Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Defends Expanded Rights for Domestic Partners in Sacramento Superior Court

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today announced his intention to oppose those seeking an immediate injunction against Assembly Bill 205, which expands certain rights for couples living together as domestic partners.

“It is unfortunate that same-sex couples in California are not provided the same rights as are couples who are permitted to marry under the law,” said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, whose agency has the responsibility of maintaining the Domestic Partners Registry.

“Assembly Bill 205 grants a degree of dignity to long-term same-sex relationships by granting community property protections, access to family courts, and government-regulated benefits. Yet even with AB 205, domestic partners still fall far short of meeting simple equality standards.”

“I will not stand by and permit the opponents of AB 205 to drive California backwards to an era of intolerance, injustice, and social discrimination. Same-sex couples are valued, taxpaying, California citizens, and they deserve to be treated as such by their own government.”

In addition to opposing the motion for injunctive relief for AB 205, Secretary Shelley will request the Sacramento Superior Court to dismiss the case.

AB 205 does not conflict with Proposition 22 (the “Knight Initiative”), which was passed by California’s voters in March 2000. AB 205 does not redefine marriage; instead it expands the rights and responsibilities provided to domestic partners.

The additional benefits and responsibilities provided for in AB 205 become effective on January 1, 2005.